

In the Claims:

Please amend Claims 2, 4, 5, 21, 42, 59, and 81 as indicated below.

2. (Twice Amended) A ubiquitin fusion protein comprising ubiquitin fused to a single epitope-containing segment, the epitope containing segment comprising two or more identical epitopes, wherein the [fusion protein] epitope-containing segment is not efficiently cleaved from the ubiquitin fusion protein by exposure to ubiquitin-specific proteases in vivo and the ubiquitin fusion protein has [being characterized by] the ability to stimulate an immune response to the heterologous epitope contained therein.

3. (Amended) The ubiquitin fusion protein of Claim 1 wherein the N-terminal residue of ubiquitin is a residue other than methionine, and the N-terminal residue other than methionine is further fused to the C-terminal residue of a second, [unmodified] ubiquitin protein which is competent to specify cleavage by a ubiquitin-specific protease between the C-terminal residue of the second ubiquitin protein and the N-terminal residue other than methionine.

4. (Twice Amended) The ubiquitin fusion protein of Claim 3 wherein the N-terminal residue of ubiquitin is a residue other than methionine, and the N-terminal residue other than methionine is further fused to the C-terminal residue of an additional C-terminal ubiquitin subdomain competent to specify cleavage by a ubiquitin-specific protease between the C-terminal residue of the additional C-terminal ubiquitin subdomain and the N-terminal residue other than methionine.

C3 21. (Twice Amended) A ubiquitin fusion protein comprising ubiquitin fused to two or more non-contiguous epitope-containing segments, each epitope-containing segment comprising one or more identical or non-identical epitopes, wherein the ubiquitin fusion protein has [being characterized by] the ability to stimulate an immune response to at least one of the heterologous epitopes contained therein.

C4 42. (Twice Amended) A ubiquitin fusion protein fused to a single epitope-containing segment comprising two or more identical or non-identical epitopes, the epitope-containing segments being fused to ubiquitin at fusion sites selected from the group consisting of the N-terminus and an internal fusion site, wherein the ubiquitin fusion protein has [being characterized by] the ability to stimulate an immune response to at least one of the heterologous epitopes contained therein.

C5 59. (Twice Amended) A ubiquitin fusion protein comprising ubiquitin fused to a single epitope-containing segment comprising one or more identical or non-identical epitopes, the epitope-containing segment being fused to ubiquitin at the N-terminus of ubiquitin, wherein the ubiquitin fusion protein has [being characterized by] the ability to stimulate an immune response to at least one of the heterologous epitopes contained therein.

C6 81. (Amended) A ubiquitin fusion protein comprising the peptide listed in SEQ ID NO: 34 fused via its N terminus to the C-terminal residue of ubiquitin, the ubiquitin moiety being modified such that the ubiquitin fusion protein is [being] non-cleavable by a ubiquitin-specific protease.